

IN THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A method for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network comprising the steps of:

receiving a print request from a client computer at a printing provider computer;

obtaining a data file associated with the print request from a data provider computer at the printing provider computer; and

requesting, at the printing provider computer, the printing of the data file and the dispatching of the printed data file to a client.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein in the step of receiving a print request, the print request originates from the client computer when supplied with search results from the data provider computer relating to a requested data file.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of obtaining a data file comprises the steps of:

requesting a data file from the data provider computer in response to the print request; and

receiving the data file from the data provider computer at the printing provider computer.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of receiving a print request comprises the steps of:

transmitting an application form to the client computer from the printing provider computer;

and

receiving a client information application associated with the application form from the client computer at the printing provider computer.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

accepting the client information application from the client computer at the printing provider computer; and  
notifying the client computer of the acceptance of the client information application.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of requesting the printing of the data file further comprises the step of requesting the printing of the client information application.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein in the step of requesting the dispatching of the printed data file to the client, the printed data file is dispatched in accordance with the client information application.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein in the step of transmitting an application, data file attribute information is transmitted with the application form.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the step of receiving a client information application, data file attribute information is received with the client information application.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the data file attribute information is transmitted as a hidden tag.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the step of obtaining a data file associated with the print request, the data file is obtained by referring to the data file attribute information.

36. (New) A method for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network comprising the steps of:

initializing a search process at a data provider computer in response to a request from a client computer for a data file;

transmitting search results of the search process from the data provider computer to the client computer;

receiving a data file transmission request at the data provider computer from a printing provider computer, wherein the printing provider computer was associated with the search results and contacted by the client computer; and

transmitting a data file from the data provider computer to the printing provider computer in response to the data file transmission request for printing of the data file at a printing provider and delivery of the printed data file to a client.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein in the step of receiving a data file transmission request, the request is sent from the printing provider computer in response to a print request from the client computer associated with the search results.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein in the step of transmitting search results, the search results comprise data file attribute information used to establish a link with a service provider computer.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein in the step of transmitting search results, the data file attribute information comprises one or more of address information of a linked destination, and a title of a data file.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein in the step of receiving a data file transmission request, the request comprises data file attribute information.

41. (New) Apparatus for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network, comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor coupled to the memory and operative to: (i) receive a print request from a client computer at a printing provider computer; (ii) obtain a data file associated with the print request from a data provider computer at the printing provider computer; and (iii) request, at the printing provider computer, the printing of the data file and the dispatching of the printed data file to a client.

42. (New) An article of manufacture for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network, comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

receiving a print request from a client computer at a printing provider computer;  
obtaining a data file associated with the print request from a data provider computer at the printing provider computer; and  
requesting, at the printing provider computer, the printing of the data file and the dispatching of the printed data file to a client.

43. (New) Apparatus for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network, comprising:

a memory; and  
at least one processor coupled to the memory and operative to: (i) initialize a search process at a data provider computer in response to a request from a client computer for a data file; (ii) transmit search results of the search process from the data provider computer to the client computer; (iii) receive a data file transmission request at the data provider computer from a printing provider computer, wherein the printing provider computer was associated with the search results and contacted by the client computer; and (iv) transmit a data file from the data provider computer to the printing provider computer in response to the data file transmission request for printing of the data file at a printing provider and delivery of the printed data file to a client.

44. (New) An article of manufacture for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network, comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

- initializing a search process at a data provider computer in response to a request from a client computer for a data file;

- transmitting search results of the search process from the data provider computer to the client computer;

- receiving a data file transmission request at the data provider computer from a printing provider computer, wherein the printing provider computer was associated with the search results and contacted by the client computer; and

- transmitting a data file from the data provider computer to the printing provider computer in response to the data file transmission request for printing of the data file at a printing provider and delivery of the printed data file to a client.

45. (New) A method for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network comprising the steps of:

- receiving a print request from a client computer at a printing provider computer;

- transmitting an application form to the client computer from the printing provider computer;

- receiving a client information application associated with the application form from the client computer at the printing provider computer;

- accepting the client information application from the client computer at the printing provider computer;

- notifying the client computer of the acceptance of the client information application;

- requesting a data file from the data provider computer in response to the print request;

- receiving the data file from the data provider computer at the printing provider computer;

- requesting, at the printing provider computer, the printing of the data file and the dispatching of the printed data file to a client.

46. (New) A method for providing a printing service for electronic data over a computer network comprising the steps of:

initializing a search process at a data provider computer in response to a request from a client computer for a data file;

transmitting search results of the search process from the data provider computer to the client computer, wherein the search results comprise data file attribute information used to establish a link with a printing provider computer;

receiving a data file transmission request comprising data file attribute information at the data provider computer from a printing provider computer in response to a print request from the client computer associated with the search results, wherein the printing provider computer was associated with the search results and contacted by the client computer; and

transmitting a data file from the data provider computer to the printing provider computer in response to the data file transmission request for printing of the data file at a printing provider and delivery of the printed data file to a client.